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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean from July 2015 to June 2016.

During that period, the Regional Centre undertook over 60 technical, legal and policy assistance activities to assist Latin American and Caribbean States, at their request, with the implementation of international instruments relating to conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction.

With a view to supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (Programme of Action on Small Arms) and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (International Tracing Instrument), the Regional Centre provided technical training to more than 550 personnel of the national authorities of Member States on the marking, tracing, stockpile management and destruction of small arms. Through community outreach initiatives and technical assistance, the Centre raised the awareness of the general public and a number of private security companies about small arms control and preventing armed violence. The Centre trained some 120 national officials from Central and South American States on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

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During the reporting period, the Regional Centre provided legislative, policy and capacity-building assistance to over 150 national authorities in the Caribbean to enhance the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. The Centre also provided capacity-building assistance to three Caribbean States to prevent proliferation in the context of maritime and port security.

The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to the Member States and other partners that supported the Regional Centre's operation and programmes with financial and in-kind contributions, and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre in order to sustain its activities in response to the increasing requests for assistance and cooperation by Member States in the region.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 70/63, the General Assembly reiterated its strong support for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of peace, disarmament and development among its Member States, and encouraged the Centre to further develop programmes in all countries of the region in the important areas of peace, disarmament and development, and to provide, upon request and in accordance with its mandate, support to Member States' initiatives in those areas at the regional and subregional levels.

2. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution at its seventy-first session. In the present report, submitted pursuant to that request, the main activities carried out by the Regional Centre from July 2015 to June 2016 are highlighted. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre in 2015 is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Functioning and mandate

3. The Regional Centre, located in Lima, was established in 1987, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J. It is mandated to provide, at their request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States in the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development.

III. Main areas of activity

4. The Regional Centre undertook more than 60 technical, legal and training assistance activities to support the efforts by States in the region in their implementation of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation instruments and adherence to international standards and norms in those fields.

5. The Regional Centre continued its specialized training and capacity-building programme for national security sector personnel on combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. As part of that programme, the Centre provided technical assistance to Latin American States in the destruction of over 2,000 confiscated weapons and in the marking of some 1,400 small arms. The Centre trained over 100 personnel from private security companies on small arms control. The Centre also promoted more effective tracing of illicit small arms by training 75 forensic firearms examiners and laboratory specialists from Member States in the region. In addition, the Centre provided training to personnel from over 120 national authorities in the region with a view to strengthening the capacity of States to implement the Arms Trade Treaty.

6. As part of its outreach efforts, the Regional Centre published the second edition of its study on the impact of stray bullets and carried out public risk awareness campaigns on small arms and explosives in respect of over 1,000 citizens.

7. The Regional Centre assisted States in the region in their implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), in particular with regard to issues relating to national legislation, maritime border security, combating proliferation financing and national action plans.

8. The Regional Centre continued its efforts to promote the participation of women in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation initiatives, in line with General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Overall, 29 per cent of participants in the Centre's activities were women, an increase from the previous reporting period.

9. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Regional Centre will align its activities to support the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the relevant parts of Goal 16.

A. Public security programme

1. Promoting peaceful coexistence at the local level

10. As part of a three-year inter agency project by the United Nations country team in Peru aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence in Peru by strengthening human security and community resilience, the Regional Centre assisted in the strengthening of local capacity to combat illicit weapons trafficking. The Centre provided expertise on small arms control and armed violence reduction and promoted coordination between local and municipal authorities in addressing small arms control challenges. The project, funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, is an example of the "One United Nations" approach.

11. Under the project, the Regional Centre provided technical assistance to the national regulatory entity for security services, firearms, ammunition and explosives for civil use of Peru in destroying in excess of 2,000 small arms confiscated by the national police in Trujillo in September 2015.

12. In November 2015, the Regional Centre supported the awareness-raising campaign led by the national regulatory entity on the responsible use of pyrotechnics and the prevention of accidents in Trujillo. The campaign involved innovative theatre presentations in schools and street parades involving young volunteers, with more than 1,000 participants, including 400 women.

13. The Regional Centre organized a seminar for some 80 representatives of local government authorities, law enforcement and public offices in Trujillo in February 2016 to discuss public security policies, in particular best practices in armed violence reduction. The policy options and best practices were intended to be considered by local authorities in the development of programmes and plans at the local level to prevent and reduce armed violence.

14. In addition, the Regional Centre provided its expertise on armed violence reduction and small arms and ammunition control to over 100 representatives from local and district governments, security and justice institutions and civil society organizations.

15. In May 2016, as part of the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence, the Regional Centre launched its second study on cases involving stray bullets as reported by the media in Latin America and the Caribbean during 2014-2015. The

study provided additional information on the impact of stray bullets and the role that small arms control measures can play in preventing such incidents. Analysis of the study showed that women and young people were disproportionately affected by stray bullets.

2. Stockpile management and marking of small arms held by private security companies

16. In the context of the increased privatization of security in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Centre, in collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, continued to implement its project on strengthening the capacities of the Governments of Member States to control small arms under the ownership of private security companies and to promote good governance in that sector. The programme promotes the application of the International Small Arms Control Standards, the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers.

17. The Regional Centre and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces undertook a regional assessment of the privatization of security, codes of conduct and related small arms control measures with a view to developing a shared understanding of the progress made and challenges faced in that area by Latin American and Caribbean Member States. The assessment serves as a tool for Member States to promote good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights in the private security sector.

18. As part of the project, the Regional Centre organized workshops for personnel of over 100 national authorities and senior managers from 12 private security companies in El Salvador and Peru. The workshops were focused on the sharing of good practices and international standards in ensuring adequate physical security and stockpile management of small arms, and were followed up with technical support on improving weapons stockpile facilities.

19. In addition, the Regional Centre supported the marking of some 1,400 weapons owned by private security companies in El Salvador and Peru, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the national authorities to control small arms effectively and to facilitate tracing in case of theft or loss.

3. Improving small arms tracing capacity

20. A number of Caribbean States requested the assistance of the Regional Centre to strengthen their national ballistics systems in order to combat illicit trafficking in small arms, light weapons and ammunition, and to contribute to the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument and the Programme of Action on Small Arms. The Centre's programme is aimed at assessing capacities and needs, as well as providing technical training, equipment and standard operating procedures, to the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago.

21. Eight national forensic ballistic capabilities assessments were carried out, contributing to the development of eight national plans of action. To assist States in implementing the action plans, the Regional Centre held regional and national training courses and seminars for over 260 participants in the Caribbean States. The

courses and seminars reinforced national forensic procedures for tracing illicit trafficking in small arms and prosecuting traffickers.

B. Supporting the implementation of multilateral instruments relating to conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction

1. Arms Trade Treaty

22. The Regional Centre continued to strengthen capacity through its Arms Trade Treaty implementation course. Three training courses were conducted for some 70 national authority personnel responsible for arms imports and exports in Guatemala, Panama and Uruguay. The courses were aimed at assisting States in developing standardized national control lists, assessing the risk of and responding to trafficking in and diversion of conventional arms and offering model standardized end-user certificates.

23. The Regional Centre also organized national round tables in El Salvador, in December 2015, and in Costa Rica, in May 2016, for a total of 50 national authority personnel in charge of arms trade controls. At the round tables recommended guidelines were provided on the establishment of a national control authority responsible for arms trade in compliance with the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty, and international standards and good practices were highlighted.

2. Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

24. The Regional Centre provided support, at their request, to several Caribbean States, namely, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, in their implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The support included legal and technical assistance for national authorities in those States to update legislative frameworks and define national priorities for the implementation of the resolution. The measures concerned were aimed at strengthening the capacity of security sector personnel in dealing with sensitive weapons of mass destruction-related dual-use goods and at responding effectively to weapons of mass destruction-related incidents at maritime ports.

25. The Regional Centre provided technical assistance to Belize, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago in the development of national action plans for the implementation of the resolution and in preparing national implementation reports.

26. The Regional Centre also provided support to the Dominican Republic in drafting a new law to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to strengthen the implementation of the resolution. Legal drafting workshops and consultations were conducted with national experts on weapons of mass destruction and members of the ad hoc national multisectoral committee.

27. In response to a request from Trinidad and Tobago, the Regional Centre developed recommended guidelines for the adoption of measures to prevent the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The guidelines were presented to 30 national authority personnel in June 2016 during a national seminar.

28. In collaboration with the International Maritime Organization, the Regional Centre organized three technical tabletop exercises in Trinidad and Tobago, in August 2015, Belize, in December 2015, and Jamaica, in June 2016, on risk

management in the maritime domain. More than 50 national authority personnel participated in the exercises. Crisis and risk management training, together with the development of protocols and contingency plans, were highlighted by the three beneficiary States as priorities in the field of maritime security and in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

29. The Regional Centre, with financial support from Canada, expanded its assistance on the implementation of the resolution to an additional five countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Guyana, Peru and Suriname. The activities in those countries will be aimed at strengthening the national legal frameworks through weapons of mass destruction-related legislative assistance, and support for strengthened export control and border security measures.

IV. Staffing, financing and administration

A. Finances

30. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 J, the Regional Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions made by Member States and interested organizations for its core and programme activities. In 2015, voluntary contributions to the Centre's Trust Fund were received in the amount of $ 4,277,835. The Centre was also the beneficiary of funds made available through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security ($148,479.69), with the support of the regional government of La Libertad in Peru. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to the Centre's donors, in particular the Governments of Canada, Germany and the United States of America, for their continued financial support. Those contributions enabled the Centre to continue to assist Member States in the region, at their request.

31. The Secretary-General also expresses his appreciation to Guyana, Mexico, Peru and Spain for their financial contributions to the Regional Centre. He continues to encourage financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre from Latin American and Caribbean States as a clear indication of the value that Member States attribute to the Centre's expertise and technical assistance.

32. The Regional Centre also enjoyed close cooperation with its partners, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the Pan American Health Organization, the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Caribbean Community, the Organization of American States, the International Maritime Organization, the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation. These partners provided the Regional Centre with in-kind or financial contributions, which greatly assisted in the implementation of its activities.

33. The Secretary-General wishes to thank all States and partners for their generous contributions to and support for the Regional Centre and encourages their continuous support to ensure that the Centre can continue to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States in the region, at their request, in

fulfilling its mandate. Information on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre for 2015 is contained in the annex to the present report.

B. Staffing and administration

34. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre recruited additional programmatic and administrative support staff for its public security and non-proliferation and arms control programmes. In particular, a Caribbean-based regional security adviser will support the provision of small arms assistance to the subregion and an international legal specialist will support the provision of assistance on the implementation of instruments on weapons of mass destruction, including Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The Centre continued its cooperation with the United Nations Volunteer Programme through the recruitment of two volunteers.

35. The Regional Centre began the implementation of its 2016-2018 strategic plan, including a broadening of its donor portfolio in support of new projects and the establishment of new regional and international partnerships.

V. Conclusion

36. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre undertook more than 60 substantive activities to support States in their implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms, the International Tracing Instrument, the Arms Trade Treaty and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

37. The Regional Centre continued to expand its technical assistance in areas ranging from small arms and ammunition tracing and combating trafficking to improving physical security and stockpile management. The Centre also continued to support States in the strengthening of national frameworks on import/export controls for conventional weapons and dual-use goods. The Centre supported States in their efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through the provision of legal assistance and capacity-building workshops, including on maritime and port security.

38. The Regional Centre promoted the participation and role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control by ensuring a minimum number of female participants at all of its events, with around 640 women enjoying practical assistance during the reporting period.

39. The Secretary-General reiterates his calls upon those Member States and other partners in a position to do so to provide the Regional Centre with the financial and in-kind support, including direct financial contributions from Latin American and Caribbean States, necessary for it to continue to carry out its mandate effectively and serve the needs of Member States in the region. The Secretary-General also encourages States to continue to fully utilize the Centre's expertise and experience in their joint efforts to promote peace, security and disarmament in the region.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2015

(United States dollars)

Reserves and fund balance, 1 January 2015	**2 191 478**
Prior-year adjustment	(941 408)[a]
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	1 250 070
Revenue	
Voluntary contributions	4 277 835[b]
Investment revenue	9 576
Other exchange revenue	2 043
Total revenue	**4 289 454**
Expenses	
Operating expenses	1 623 713
Depreciation and amortization	511
Total expenses	**1 624 224**
Surplus/(deficit)	2 665 230
Accumulated surplus	**3 915 300**[c]

[a] Consists of contribution from Germany in the amount of $153,611 for 2015.

[b] During the reporting period, voluntary contributions were received from Canada ($1,133,550), Germany ($735,499), Guyana ($1,031), Mexico ($5,000), Peru ($25,000), Spain ($22,119) and the United States of America ($2,355,636).

[c] Consists of accumulated surplus as at 1 January 2015, plus revenue received, less expenses during the year.